



# World Rabies Day

## September 8, 2007

### What Do You Know About Rabies?

- **What animal most commonly carries rabies in Utah?**

Wild bats are the most common carrier in Utah, but other wild animals may still carry the disease.

- **How do I protect my pets from rabies?**

- Current rabies vaccinations are very important in keeping your pets safe. Keep cats, dogs, and ferrets current on their rabies vaccinations.
- Keep your pets away from wild animals.

- **What if I am bitten or scratched by a wild animal or bat?**

- Wash the area immediately with soap and water.
- Contact animal services and your local health department immediately and report the incident.
- Seek medical attention for any cuts, bites or open wounds.

- **What will happen if I am exposed to rabies?**

- Your doctor will prescribe Post-exposure Prophylaxis (PEP).
  - PEP consists of 6 shots over a 28 day period, provided by a health care provider.
  - Current vaccinations are relatively painless and are given in your arm.
- **If Rabies is left untreated it is 100% fatal!**

#### Facts About Rabies:

- 6,417 cases of rabies were reported in animals in the United States in 2005.
- Hawaii is the only state that has never reported a case in humans or animals.
- Wild animals account for 92% of reported cases.
- Domestic animals account for 8% of all rabid animals reported.
- Cat cases are more than twice as high as any other domestic animal.
- Bats are the most commonly affected animal in Utah.
- An estimated 35,000 humans die worldwide each year from rabies.

#### If you come in contact with a wild animal or bat, call:

- Animal Services
- Your Local Health Department
- Utah Department of Agriculture

[www.health.utah.gov/epi](http://www.health.utah.gov/epi)